CHAPTER 20

INCIDENT SITUATION DISPLAY

The collection and display of information about an incident and the nature and status of response operations is a critical aspect of establishing and maintaining a command and control environment, and promotes effective and efficient communications. Ideally, pre-designed status boards should be used for display to ensure that critical information is captured and presented in a clear and logical fashion.

Status boards that depict information that is of use to two or more Sections in an ICP should be grouped together in an area called the Incident Situation Display. The Incident Situation Display should be viewed as the one place in an ICP where anyone can go, at any time, to learn about the nature and status of an incident and response operations.

Status boards in the Incident Situation Display should be limited in number and should be displayed in an ordered fashion to ensure that they impart an integrated and coherent message concerning: (1) the incident (e.g., nature, location and extent of the incident, status of resources, type and quantity of resources, and the environmental conditions affecting the response); and (2) the nature and status of response operations to address the incident. The diagram presents an example of an Incident Situation Display layout that is consistent with a logical left to right viewing. An Incident Situation Display should be established and maintained by the SUL and RUL. It should be situated in a highly visible and easily accessible location, in close proximity to the Planning Section and easily accessible to the Operations Section. Since it is an active work area, it should be located away from areas subject to heavy foot traffic.

Although an Incident Situation Display is established and maintained by personnel in the Planning Section, it belongs to everyone in the ICS. To the extent the Incident Situation Display contains information about activities underway in other sections, it is the obligation of appropriate personnel in those sections to work with Planning to ensure information posted in the Incident Situation Display is accurate and up-to-date. It is likewise the responsibility of the status board monitors within the Situation Unit to seek out sources and establish paths and schedules for needed information.

As time allows, black-and-white, 8" by 11" versions of the status board information should be prepared. These documents should be time-stamped and distributed within the ICS and remotely, and copies should be made available at Incident Situation Display.

This is an example of Status Boards for Situation Display. For planning purposes only.

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MEETING		ICS 230		
RESOURCES	ICS 219			
INCIDENT	SUMMARY	ICS 209		
ORGANIZATION		1CS 207		
SITUATION DISPLAY MAP				
RESOURCES	SUMMARY	ICS 232		
RESPONSE		ICS 202		
STORY	IAPs	WEATHER		

